

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 24, 2007

The Honorable Condoleezza Rice  
Secretary of State  
U.S. Department of State  
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Madam Secretary:

Many of our constituents have expressed their concern about the Guatemalan government's announcement that it will not process intercountry adoptions to nations that have not ratified the Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention as of January 1, 2008. A number of our constituents who have already begun the process of adopting a child from Guatemala are concerned that pending adoption cases will be suspended or cancelled as a result of Guatemala's recent announcement.

As you know, the United States signed the Convention in 1994, and in 2000, President Clinton signed into law the Intercountry Adoption Act (Public Law 106-279), which provides for the implementation of Convention regulations. Also in 2000, the Senate provided its advice and consent authorizing the United States to ratify the Convention. We understand that the U.S. State Department is in the process of finalizing rules that will allow the U.S. to ratify the Convention, and allow the Convention to enter into force in the U.S.

It is also our understanding that the government of Guatemala is currently working to implement the regulations mandated by the Convention. We applaud this effort, and we believe it is an important step to ensure legal safeguards in protecting children and their families in Guatemala.

Regardless of the status of Guatemala's compliance with the Convention, U.S. ratification of the Convention would represent real progress towards preventing the international abduction and trafficking of children. We respectfully ask that you complete the rule-making process as expeditiously as is prudent, so that the U.S. may ratify the Convention. We appreciate your ongoing hard work with respect to the Convention, and we thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

  
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Max Baucus

  
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George V. Voinovich

Joe Lick

Tom Marking

Pat Blum

Wm. G. Hatch

Blanche L. Linsch

Robert A. McArthur

John E. Harg

Hub/Karl

Chuck Schum

Gene McCasill

Barbara Boyer

John Johnson

Arthur Stetson

Lamar Alexander

Kent Lamm

Jeanne Stein

Byron H. Enger

Robert M. Mering



Jack Reed

Elizabeth Dole

Jim Webb

Hillary Rodham Clinton

Chris Dodd

Patrick Leahy

Shirley

Ben Cardin

Ken Salazar

Allen Smith  
SEC. RICE RE. GUATEMALA

Ron Wyden

Judd Gregg  
Carl Levin

Kay Bailey Hutchison

Frank Lautenberg

Frank R. Lautenberg

J. F. Kerry

Wayne Allard

Samuel

Will Martin

Harry Reid

Jim Sullivan

Ed Kennedy